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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,182	02/15/2001	Fabienne Coez	PF980036	5225

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EXAMINER

VENT, JAMIE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,182

Applicant(s)

COEZ ET AL.

Examiner

Jamie Vent

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 7, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed April 7, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that James et al (US 6,108,739) fails to disclose the following limitation, "verification by the actions manager of the availability, at a time when the action is to be carried out as specified by the time indication, of resources involved in accomplishing the action" as recited in Claim 1. In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. James et al discloses from col. 12, line 67 to col. 13, line 3 that "In one embodiment, the precedence information identifies the age of the subaction based on a time stamp such that the oldest packets are processed first". From the above passage, it is clear that the request does have the time information (time stamp). The busy/retry and reject/resent protocols of the reference are preformed at a time when the action is to be carried out and thereby meeting the limitation. Although, all of applicants points are understood the examiner cannot agree.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by James et al (US 6,108,739) as set forth in the last Office Action.

Regarding claim 1, James et al discloses a process for programming actions of resources in a network of domestic devices (Fig. 1), including the steps of:

sending a request for programming an action by a client application to a manager of preprogrammed actions of a device of the network, the programming request including a set of parameters defining the action including a time indication and a list of resources involved in accomplishing the action (transactions disclosed in col. 6, lines 54-61, the request subaction having targeted, transaction label, transaction label, sourceId disclosed in col. 7, lines 24-67, and the time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3),

verification by the actions manager of the availability, at a time when the action is to be carried out as specified by the time indication, of the resources involved in accomplishing the action (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and the

time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3. Furthermore, the time stamp provides a time for the action to be carried out),

transmission to the client application of a message of acceptance or of refusal of the programming of the action on the part of the preprogrammed actions manager depending on the result of the verification (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34).

Regarding claim 2, James et al also discloses the claimed wherein the client application selects a preprogrammed action manager situated in a device other than the client application itself (the bridge 24 disclosed in col. 8, lines 45-50 and responder disclosed in col. 7, lines 23-30).

Regarding claim 3, James et al discloses the claimed of step of storage by each resource involved of its timetable with respect to the action (program instructions stored in memories 16 disclosed in col. 6, lines 20-34 and the time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 4, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the verification step comprises sending a request, by the preprogrammed actions manager, to each resource involved, for ascertaining the availability of the resources involved in view of their respective reservation timetables (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 5, James et al discloses the claimed wherein, at the time specified in the request, the preprogrammed actions manager performs the following tasks:

reservation of the resources involved (the bridge 24 disclosed in col. 8, lines 45-50 and request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34);

establishment of the resource involved (the bridge 24 disclosed in col. 8, lines 45-50 and request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34);

instigating of the commands with the resources involved (the bridge 24 disclosed in col. 8, lines 45-50 and request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34).

Regarding claim 6, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the request comprises a start time of the action (the time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 7, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the request comprises an end time of the action (the time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 8, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the request comprises a data item identifying a periodicity of the action (the bridge 24 disclosed in col. 8, lines 45-50 and request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34).

Regarding claim 9, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the request comprises a list of connections to be established before the action is initiated (transactions disclosed in col. 6, lines 54-61, the request subaction having targeted, transaction label, transaction label, sourceId disclosed in col. 7, lines 24-67, and the time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 10, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the verification step comprises the step of sending, to a device control manager of a given resource listed in the request, action parameters corresponding to the resource, wherein the device control manager acts as an intermediary between the preprogrammed actions manager and the given resource (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 11, James et al discloses the claimed the step of providing an identifier of an action by the preprogrammed action manager to the requesting application in case the action is accepted (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Claim 12 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1 above.

Claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 2 above.

Claim 14 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 6 above.

Claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 7 above.

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 8 above.

Claim 17 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 9 above.

Claim 18 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1 above.

Claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 20, James et al discloses the claimed wherein the verification step comprises the step of sending, to a device control manager of a given resource listed in the request, action parameters corresponding to the resource, wherein the device control manager acts as an intermediary between the preprogrammed actions manager and the given resource (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Regarding claim 21, James et al discloses the claimed step of providing an identifier of an action by the preprogrammed action manager to the requesting application in case the action is accepted (request/resend protocol, reject/resend protocol, busy/retry protocol, CONFLICT, and COMPLETE disclosed col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 34 and time stamp disclosed from col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 3).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Venners et al (US 4,855,730).


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamie Vent whose telephone number is 571-272-7384. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JJV


THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER